



Attorney Docket No. 03
PATENT APPLICATION

RESERVED
APR 24 2002
TECH CENTER 1600/2900

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Kenichiro SATO, et al.

Appln. No.: 09/275,941

Confirmation No.: 1435

Group Art Unit: 1613

Filed: March 25, 1999

Examiner: Taylor Victor OH

For: NOVEL (METH)ACRYLIC ACID ESTER COMPOUND

RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed November 23, 2001. The Examiner set a three month period for response. A Petition and payment for a two month extension of time are attached, making this response due on or before April 23, 2002.

Claims 1-3 and 5-9 are pending in the application. In the Office Action Summary, the Examiner indicates that claim 1 is rejected; and that claims 2-3 and 5-9 are objected to.

In Paragraphs 4 and 5 of the Action, claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Ahlheim et al.

The Examiner states that Ahlheim et al teaches a "structural isomer" of the claimed compounds, referring to structural formula 2-5 at the top of page 781 of Ahlheim.

However, the Examiner says, the present invention differs from Ahlheim et al in that R₃ is hydrogen instead of a methyl group.